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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/455,851 12/07/99 SLUZEWSKI

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WM02/0703

EXAMINER

RENNER, C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2652

DATE MAILED:

07/03/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/455,851

Applicant

Sluzewski et al.

Examiner

Craig A. Renner

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 Jul 2000

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 7 Dec 1999 is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 3

20) ☐ Other

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Drawings

1. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.
2. The drawings are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a. In FIG. 1, reference sign "128" should be changed to --132-- in order to be consistent with the remainder of the disclosure.
 - b. In FIG. 6, each reference sign "144" should be changed to --144'-- and each reference sign "144'" should be changed to --144-- in order to be consistent with the remainder of the disclosure.

Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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5. Claims 1-14 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. Many elements in the claims are indefinite because they lack clear and/or positive antecedent basis including “the slider scale package” (line 5 in each of claims 1 and 2), “the head interconnect circuit” (lines 2-3 and 3 of claim 10) and “the bond pads” (line 2 of claim 18).

b. In line 2 of claim 8, it is indefinite as to whether the “first, second, third, and fourth interconnect pads” include the “at least one interconnect pad” set forth in line 5 of independent claim 2, or if the “first, second, third, and fourth interconnect pads” are in addition to the “at least one interconnect pad” set forth in line 5 of independent claim 2.

c. In lines 2-3 of claim 8, it is indefinite as to whether the “first, second, third, and fourth bond pads” include the “at least one bond pad” set forth in lines 3-4 of base claim 2, or if the “first, second, third, and fourth bond pads” are in addition to the “at least one bond pad” set forth in lines 3-4 of base claim 2.

d. In line 3 of claim 9, it is indefinite as to how the “slider/MR head” can be “for reading data” when it has initially been set forth as “recording” in lines 1-2 of independent claim 1.

e. In lines 1-2 of claim 17, it is indefinite as to whether the “first, second, third, and fourth interconnect pads” include the “at least one interconnect pad” set forth in line 9 of

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independent claim 2, or if the “first, second, third, and fourth interconnect pads” are in addition to the “at least one interconnect pad” set forth in line 9 of independent claim 2.

f. In lines 1-2 of claim 18, it is indefinite as to whether “the first, second, third, and fourth interconnect pads” refer to those set forth in lines 1-2 of base claim 17, or those set forth in lines 2-3 of base claim 17.

g. Claims 3-7 and 11-14 inherit the indefiniteness associated with their respective base claims and stand rejected as well.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-5 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Maffitt et al. (US 5,610,783).

8. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ainslie et al. (US 4,789,914).

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

11. Claims 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maffitt et al. (US 5,610,783).

Maffitt teaches the invention as claimed except for a “suspension” and a “head interconnect circuit”.

Official notice is taken of the fact that it is notoriously old and well known in the art to provide a suspension and a head interconnect circuit in the same field of endeavor for the purpose of enabling data communication over a recording medium. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have had a suspension and a head interconnect circuit in Maffitt. The rationale is as follows:

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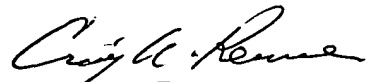
One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to have had a suspension and a head interconnect circuit in Maffitt since such enables data communication over a recording medium.

Pertinent Prior Art

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. This includes Anderson et al. (US 5,768,062) and Pattanaik (US 5,815,347), which each individually teaches a slider scale package assembly.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning the above referenced application should be directed to the examiner, Craig A. Renner, whose telephone number is (703) 308-0559, and whose facsimile number is (703) 872-9314. The examiner can normally be reached Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. E.S.T.


Craig A. Renner
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2652

CAR
July 02, 2001